

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECE

SUBJECT: ECE - POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF SECRETARIAT

REF: GENEVA 5929

1. SUMMARY: GENEVA GROUP HEARD SWISS PRESENTATION STRONGLY OPPOSING POSSIBLE MOVE OF ECE FROM GENEVA TO VIENNA. FRANCE, SWEDEN AND UK REPORTED THEIR GOVERNMENTS ALSO OPPOSED. CANADA URGED WEO COORDINATION FOR 30TH G.A. FRG DESIRED TO STUDY MATTER FURTHER. U.S. TOOK NO POSITION BUT NOTED THAT STANOVNIK HAD RAISED FINANCIAL, LOGISTICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS. CHAIRMAN SUMMED UP THAT DELS WOULD REPORT SWISS VIEWS TO CAPITALS AND SEEK COORDINATION OF WEOS IN NEW YORK AND POSSIBLY CONSULT FURTHER IN GENEVA. END SUMMARY.

2. SWISS REPRESENTATIVE RAISED QUESTION OF POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF ECE SECRETARIAT FROM GENEVA TO VIENNA DURING GENEVA GROUP MEETING AUGUST 7. HE NOTED THAT SUBJECT WAS SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL FOR THIS FORUM. SINCE GOS WAS SUFFICIENTLY CONCERNED OVER REPORTS OF POSSIBLE MOVE AND COULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN GA DELIBERATIONS, THEY DESIRED TO MAKE VIEWS KNOWN IN THIS FORUM.

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3. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOA AND SYG, SWISS HAVE EXPRESSED STRONG OBJECTION TO MOVE BOTH AS HOST COUNTRY AND AS ECE MEMBER. THEY MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: (1) ECE SHOULD REMAIN IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO UNCTAD, GATT AND EFTA AND UN EUROPEAN OFFICE FOR COORDINATION; (2) MOVE TO VIENNA WOULD IMPART EASTERN ORIENTATION TO ECE WHICH PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE IN LIGHT OF CSCE FOLLOW-UP; (3) FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE BECAUSE OF LOSS OF LOGISTICAL SERVICES COMMON TO UN BODIES IN THE PALAIS; (4) MISSIONS OF ECE MEMBERS WOULD LOSE BENEFITS OF CONCENTRATED EFFORTS ON ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES PRESENTLY LOCATED IN GENEVA; (5) ECE STAFF WOULD BE SEVERELY DISRUPTED.

4. SWISS REP STRESSED THAT GOS VIEWS HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO GOA IN ORDER THAT THERE BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING. GOA ALSO INFORMED OF SWISS INTENTION TO RAISE MATTER IN GENEVA GROUP. THERE HAS BEEN NO FRICTION OR DISCORD BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. SWISS EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN THAT DECISION MIGHT BE TAKEN AT 30TH GA IN LINE WITH RES. 3350. THEY FEEL THAT MOVE WOULD BE AT LEAST 3 YEARS OFF AND THAT DECISION AT THIS POINT WOULD BE PREMATURE.

6. FRENCH COMPLETELY SUPPORTED SWISS VIEWS AND ADDED THAT GOF UNDERSTANDS THAT SYG HAS BEEN PERSUADED BY STANOVNIK AGAINST THE MOVE.

7. U.S. NOTED ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS ENTAILED BY MOVE WHICH STANOVNIK HAD CONVEYED TO U.S. DEL (GENEVA 1680).

8. SWEDEN SUPPORTED POSITION OF SWITZERLAND AND FRANCE.

9. CANADA INQUIRED WHETHER OTHER ORGANS BEING CONSIDERED FOR MOVE TO VIENNA. NO DEL HAD SUCH INFORMATION.

10. FRG INQUIRED AS TO WHICH BODY WOULD MAKE THE FINAL DECISION ON THE MOVE. THE CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT THE GA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD TAKE THIS DECISION.

11. UK SAID HMG HAD EXAMINED QUESTION AND FIRMLY DECIDED AGAINST MOVE. UPHEAVAL WOULD BE ENORMOUS AND CONSEQUENCES FOR CSCE FOLLOW-UP WOULD BE SEVERE. UK FELT THAT UNCERTAINTY ON THIS MATTER WAS DAMAGING TO STAFF MORALE AND A HINDRANCE TO EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF ECE. A DECISION SHOULD BE MADE AGAINST THE MOVE AT THE 30TH GA.

12. CANADA FELT THAT GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS SHOULD HIGHLIGHT THIS QUESTION FOR THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND INFORM THEM OF STRONG SWISS VIEWS. WEO GROUP SHOULD CONCERT POSITIONS IN NEW YORK IN CONNECTION WITH GA CONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER.

13. CHAIRMAN (U.S.) SUMMED UP THAT ALMOST ALL REPS WHO SPOKE SHARED SWISS VIEWS. DELS SHOULD REPORT BACK TO GOVERNMENTS AND CONCERT POSITION IN WEO GROUP IN NEW YORK AND POSSIBLY IN GENEVA AS WELL.ABRAMS

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